

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: HOCHELAGA BYELECTION

REF: MONTREAL 1636, OCTOBER 8, 1975

1. TODAY'S GAZETTE REPORTS, AS HOCHELAGA VOTERS GO TO POLL, THAT LIBERALS EXPECT JUNEAU TO WIN BY ABOUT 1500 VOTES. JUNEAU HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL NOT ACCEPT A SENATE SEAT NOR A RUN IN ANY OTHER RIDING IF HE LOSES.

2. IN CONVERSATION YESTERDAY WITH PELLETIER'S DAUGHTER, ANNE-MARIE BOURDOUXHE, A MEMBER OF THE NDP AND WIFE OF THE NDP CANDIDATE'S TREASURER, SHE EXPRESSED MODEST DOUBT "WELL, I DON'T KNOW" ABOUT JUNEAU'S SUCCESS." SHE AVERRED HE HAS NOT CAMPAIGNED WELL IN SENSE OF NOT RELATING TO THE PEOPLE, WHO FIND HIM RESERVED, "BUT A 4,000 VOTE MAJORITY (1974 ELECTION RESULT) IS HARD TO OVERCOME AND I DON'T THINK A CABINET MINISTER HAS EVER BEEN BEATEN." (SHE MAY HAVE NOT YET BEEN BORN WHEN GEN. MCNAUGHTON, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, WAS DEFEATED TWICE IN 1945.)

3. SHE HELD OUT NO HOPE FOR GOOD RUN BY NDP CANDIDATE AND WAS BITTERLY CRITICAL OF FEDERAL NDP LEADER ED BROADBENT WHO CAME
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INTO DISTRICT, OPENED HIS SPEECH WITH TWO SENTENCES OF BAD

FRENCH, AND THEN SPOKE FOR THIRTY MINUTES IN ENGLISH TO A LARGELY UNCOMPREHENDING AND IRRITATED GROUP OF POTENTIAL VOTERS. SHE WAS ALSO UNHAPPY WITH PRESS WHICH, ON A COUPLE OF OCCASIONS, DID NOT EVEN MENTION NAME OF CANDIDATE BUT FOCUSED ON HER HUSBAND'S ROLE AND RELATIONSHIP TO PELLETIER.

4. SHE FEELS THAT PARTI QUEBECOIS VOTERS WILL NOT NECESSARILY STAY AWAY FROM POLLS BECAUSE THEY POSITIVELY DO NOT WANT CONSERVATIVE LAVOIE ELECTED. SHE DID NOT INDICATE FOR WHOM THEY MIGHT VOTE. IN THIS CONNECTION SHE COMMENTED THAT THE NDP HAD BEEN BURNED BY THE PQ AND "LEARNED ITS LESSON." SHE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE 1973 PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS THE NDP HAD SUPPORTED PQ CANDIDATES IN EXCHANGE FOR PROMISE OF SIMILAR SUPPORT IN THE FOLLOWING FEDERAL ELECTION, BUT WHEN THE TIME CAME THE LATTER HAD URGED ITS MEMBERSHIP TO BOYCOTT THE ELECTION OR INVALIDATE THEIR BALLOTS. SHE ADDED THAT THAT WAS NOT A SUCCESSFUL PLOY BUT IT WAS CERTAINLY ENOUGH TO TEACH THE PARTY THAT THEY COULDN'T RELY ON PQ COOPERATION.

5. EFFECT OF PM TRUDEAU'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW ECONOMIC POLICY LAST NIGHT CANNOT BE JUDGED, BUT COULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT FROM LIBERAL STANDPOINT IN THIS WORKING CLASS DISTRICT GIVEN NDP ASSESSMENT THAT IT WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT ONLY LOW3SALARIED WORKERS.
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